

INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO 2009 AND 2010 GROUND FISH FISHERIES – PART I

Management measures for the 2009 and 2010 groundfish season were set by the Council with the understanding these measures would likely need to be adjusted throughout the biennial period to attain, but not exceed, the optimum yields (OYs). This agenda item will consider inseason adjustments to ongoing 2009 fisheries, and preliminary adjustments to 2010 fisheries.

As part of this agenda item, the Council will discuss more precautionary approaches to managing petrale sole and canary rockfish within the current biennium. At the June Council meeting the Council considered recent information on the status of both petrale sole and canary rockfish. During this meeting the Council adopted preliminary measures for reducing the mortality of petrale sole in 2009 and 2010 pending further analysis, and also indicated the intention to reduce the canary rockfish OY in 2010. The most recent stock assessments for petrale sole and canary rockfish are relatively more pessimistic than the previous assessments used in the 2009 and 2010 harvest specifications process, raising the possibility of needing to take a mid-course action to protect the status of these stocks and to remain on target to meet rebuilding plan goals. Included within this agenda item is a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) outlining the biological and socioeconomic effects of reducing the petrale sole OY. Also included within this EA is an analysis showing the type of impacts that may be expected to occur from possible reductions in the 2010 canary rockfish OY.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) will meet prior to this agenda item to discuss and recommend inseason adjustments to 2009 groundfish fisheries. After hearing this advisory body advice and public comments, the Council will consider preliminary or final inseason adjustments. Agenda Item E.7 is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, should further analysis or clarification be needed.

Council Task:

- 1. Adopt initial or final inseason adjustments.**
- 2. Consider revised management measures for petrale sole and canary rockfish, if appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.4.b, NMFS Report: Draft Environmental Assessment. Proposed Interim 2009 and 2010 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for Petrale Sole and Canary Rockfish off the Pacific Coast.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Merrick Burden
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary or Final Recommendations for Adjustments to 2009 and 2010 Groundfish Fisheries

PFMC
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